

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Missionaries commissioned in Clinton

CLINTON, Ms. (BP and local reports) — Morrison Heights Church in Clinton was the setting May 18 for the commissioning of 89 new missionaries by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Alpharetta, Ga.

"I'm helping train parents to be the spiritual leaders of their children," said Sarah Ferguson, a new NAMB missionary who is currently working with a ministry to New Jersey commuters whose long hours en route to and from work in New York City take a toll on family life.

"I'm sharing the Gospel and helping families find ways of focusing on Christ in their everyday lives," she said.

Ferguson, who couldn't help making a joking reference to her royal namesake, the Duchess of York, is convinced that families are the most important link in passing a Christian legacy to the next generation.

She serves as a US/C2 missionary through NAMB and the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey.

Ferguson's passion for missions started at her home church, McGregor Church in Fort Myers, Fl., when she went with other members a few years ago on a missions trip to New Jersey. She always has a ready story at hand about the latest family in which she has seen God work.

One father recently rededicated his life to Christ and returned his family to the practice of attending church. "They were having a lot of problems with their oldest daughter. She and another sibling didn't want to have anything to do with church. Through our ministry, the dad decided he was going to start leading his family and bring them back to church even if the children disagreed. Now the daughter is in our leadership program and is leading other kids."

Ferguson's story was one of dozens that missionaries in the room could tell as they walked down the aisle of Morrison Heights Church to be commissioned. The group represented multiple ethnic backgrounds and will join more than 5,600 NAMB missionaries serving throughout the United States, Canada, and their territories.

NAMB President Geoff Hammond, who was commissioned as a NAMB missionary at nearby First Church, Jackson, in 2000, cited the Apostle Paul's visit to Thessalonica in chapter 17 of Acts in telling the new missionaries to be bold as they go into the mission field.

"There is a trend in ministry today that says you have to first go to a community and fit in and be a part of things," Hammond said. "Too often we fit in so much nobody can tell the difference. You need to go be a part of the community, but let them know what you believe. Jesus said it well — don't hide your light under a bushel."

"We say to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ: Be bold," Hammond told the missionaries. He pointed to verse 6 of

Acts 17 in which the Jews took Paul and Silas to the city authorities and said, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also."

To the applause of the audience, Hammond told the missionaries, "If you are run out of town for the sake of the Gospel, the North American Mission Board will stand beside you and find you a new place of service."

Hammond also challenged others in attendance to be a presence for the Gospel in their communities.

"Do you know what's wrong with North America? We have Christians in every community, but nobody knows they are there. We have to let people know we are there and that we are Christians," Hammond said.

Reflecting a diversity of backgrounds and ministry areas, the missionaries took a brief turn on stage introducing themselves and sharing a prayer request. Among them:

- Greg and Mia Pendarvis, Mission Service Corps (MSC) missionaries serving through NAMB and the South Carolina Baptist Convention who share Christ through sports outreach programs in Fort Mill, S.C.

Greg, a 20-year veteran schoolteacher veteran who coached football and baseball, recently quit his job to give ministry his full-time attention. Their sports evangelism ministry started five years ago with a sports camp for 80 community kids.

Today, their year-round ministry shares the Gospel with 500 kids annually. New players each season receive a copy of the Bible, paid for by Cooperative Program offering dollars.

- Doug and Joli Cullen, MSC missionaries who partner with NAMB and the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Although based in Kentucky, they don't really have a home. They travel the nation speaking in churches, schools, homeless shelters, and to whoever else will listen about the sanctity of human life at all stages — pre-birth through death — and how Christians can be a voice for life even in a hostile culture.

Along the way they stay in unused parsonages, missionary homes, in the homes of host church members and often in their tent.

"You would be surprised how many Southern Baptists say abortion should be left to individuals to decide," Doug said. Still, they've seen God work in the hearts of many people as they hold up the Gospel and share the message of life.

Wanda Lee, the executive director of Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention, greeted the missionaries and led in a time of prayer.

"Our partnership with these missionaries does not end tonight," Lee told the commissioning service audience. "Out of a heart of love we are called to pray for these missionaries and to learn about their needs so you can pray more than just 'God bless our missionaries.'"



Ferguson



PROUD TO SERVE — Children at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton prepare to participate in the parade of flags at the May 18 commissioning service for North American Mission Board missionaries at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. A total of 89 new missionaries were appointed during the service. (BP photo)

David Michel, associate executive director for missions strategy with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, reminded the missionaries of their "priestly duty of proclaiming the Gospel of God" as Paul outlined in Romans 15:16.

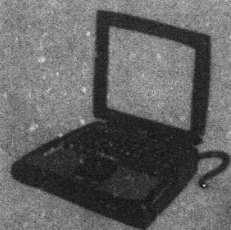
"This is the work to which you are called and in which we join you in prayerful support," Michel said.

The North American Mission Board commissions missionaries and chaplains together, but the missionary count of 5,600 includes only missionaries. NAMB has endorsed an additional 3,048 chaplains in behalf of Southern Baptists.

Some missionaries are fully funded by NAMB, but most receive a blend of funding from NAMB and state convention partners. Mission Service Corps missionaries raise their own salary support but receive training, resources, and logistical support through Southern Baptist missions offerings.

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The professor and the medal

What misery is mine," writes the Old Testament prophet Micah in Micah 7:1 (NIV), as he searches in vain for even one righteous man among God's people to stand with him against the cultural and spiritual rot of the day. Mary Ann Glendon must feel that way, too. She recently made a stand of her own, from which she did not budge for any degree of fame and fortune. It's too bad we didn't get a chance to read about her in the mainstream news media, but she obviously doesn't fit their mold.

A native of Massachusetts, Glendon holds both J.D. and LL.M. degrees. For the benefit of us mere mortals, a J.D. is a graduate-level law degree and a LL.M. is an even more advanced law degree. She is the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, where she teaches and writes on bioethics, comparative constitutional law, property, and human rights in international law.

She has served on the President's Council on Bioethics, and was appointed by former U.S. President George W. Bush to serve as ambassador to the Vatican. The National Law Journal named her one of the "Fifty Most Influential Women Lawyers in America." She was recently selected for what is arguably the most respected award in the American Roman Catholic Church, the Laetare Medal from Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind.

Mary Ann Glendon was set to place the capstone on a brilliant legal and academic career of many decades with the Laetare Medal. That is, until she learned that U.S. President Barack Obama was to be the speaker for the graduation ceremony at which she was to receive the medal — and that he would receive an honorary degree from the university.



The problem was that Mary Ann Glendon is as ardently pro-life as the President is pro-abortion. In addition, she simply could not abide Notre Dame's decision to honor someone who so defiantly and openly opposes the Catholic Church's position on that pivotal issue. Glendon sent a letter to Notre Dame President The Rev. John I. Jenkins, excerpted below:

"... I could not help but be dismayed by the news that Notre Dame also

planned to award the president an honorary degree. This, as you must know, was in disregard of the U.S. bishops' express request of 2004 that Catholic institutions "should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles" and that such persons "should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions." That request, which in no way seeks to control or interfere with an institution's freedom to invite and engage in serious debate with whomever it wishes, seems to me so reasonable that I am at a loss to understand why a Catholic university should disrespect it," she wrote.

"It is with great sadness, therefore, that I have concluded that I cannot accept the Laetare Medal or participate in the May 17 graduation ceremony," she wrote.

The viciousness began almost immediately, of course.

"Glendon's words suggest that Obama may be president but he is not HER President, or the Catholics' president — a highly divisive and anti-democratic sentiment," wrote commentator Danielle Crittenden on NewMajority.com.

"Based on the spirit of the Laetare Medal, Glendon made the right decision to reject it. There is nothing about being exclusionary and punitive that illustrates the ideals of faith. She was the wrong representative," sniffed columnist Suzette Martinez Standing on NorwichBulletin.com.

Hang in there, Dr. Glendon. Micah would understand exactly what you're going through and he was still able to declare, "But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord... my God will hear me." (Micah 7:7 NIV)

When comes our own time to take a stand — and it will come — may our witness to a lost world be as bold.

So. Baptist ethicist decries murder of abortion doctor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, issued the following statement regarding the murder of abortion doctor George Tiller, who was shot to death June 1 while serving as an usher at his Lutheran church in Wichita, Kan.

Tiller began performing abortions shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized the procedure in 1973. Derided as "Tiller the Baby Killer," he received national attention for decades and was the focus of massive protests over the years for performing large numbers of late-term abortions after 21 weeks gestation at his clinic in Wichita.

"If the perpetrator of this violence proves to be someone who was acting in the name of the pro-life movement, everyone in the pro-life community must swiftly and soundly repudiate him and his actions," Land said.

"The murder of Dr. George Tiller is a human tragedy. Murdering someone is a grotesque and bizarre way to emphasize one's commitment

to the sanctity of human life. People who truly believe in the sanctity of human life believe in the sanctity of the lives of abortion providers as well as the unborn babies who are aborted," Land said.

After a spate of violence against abortion providers in the early 1990s, Land convened a group of Southern Baptist ethicists and theologians who issued a statement in September 1994 which has become known as the Nashville Declaration of Conscience, that condemned the killing of abortion providers.

The declaration said, in part, "The killing of abortion doctors by private citizens raises the important question of whether such an action is a morally legitimate Christian response to legalized abortion on demand. We strongly contend that killing abortion doctors is not a moral option for Christians."

Land wrote in the December 1994 issue of First Things, "Pro-life Americans must take the moral high ground and vigorously oppose vigilante violence against abortion doctors or anyone else. We must tirelessly provide alternatives to abortion, engage the legal sys-

tem, and affirm the overwhelming majority of physicians who refuse to perform abortions. So long as American democracy remains a legitimate form of government, with provisions for redress, reform, and nonviolent protest, we must remain 'wise as serpents, harmless as doves.'"

On June 1, Land reiterated his horror at such actions. "Clearly, the killing of abortion providers is unbiblical, unchristian and un-American. Such callous disregard for human beings brutalizes everyone," he said. "For people to take the law into their hands in this fashion and to attempt to be judge, jury and executioner of a fellow human being is reprehensible and must be condemned by all civilized citizens."

"It is incumbent upon us to pray for Dr. Tiller's family and all those who were forced to witness the terrible act of violence in a house of worship. The perpetrator of this violence should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Tiller owned one of only three abortion clinics in the country that performs abortions after 21 weeks gestation,

the generally-accepted point of fetal viability. He was the frequent target of violent threats. His clinic was bombed in 1985, and he was shot in both arms in 1993 as he drove away from the clinic.

He was recently found not guilty of 19 counts of violating state law regarding late-term abortions.

Tiller had fortified the clinic with bulletproof glass and other reinforcements, and he was known to travel in an armored vehicle with a bodyguard. There was no indication that he was being guarded when he was shot at the church.

In a Kansas City suburb about three hours after the shooting, law enforcement officers stopped a vehicle being driven a man identified as Scott Roeder, 51. The vehicle fit descriptions provided by witnesses at the church, including the license plate number.

Roeder is being held without bond in Wichita, charged with one count of first-degree murder in Tiller's death and two counts of aggravated assault for threatening church members who attempted to intervene at the time of the shooting.

Students fan out to summer ministry sites

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — An army of 25,000 student and adult volunteers will mobilize across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico in June, when the North American Mission Board's World Changers, PowerPlant, and Families on Mission ministries launch for the summer.

Introduced in 1991 and now in its 19th year, World Changers is a pre-packaged mission experience sponsored and managed by NAMB, enabling students to donate a week (Saturday to Saturday) of their summer to help rehabilitate housing in struggling neighborhoods, at no charge to homeowners.

World Changers — the largest of the three summer ministries — will sponsor 92 projects in 85 cities between June 8 and Aug. 1, attracting 23,000 middle school, high school, and college students. World Changers will reach the milestone of renovating its 20,000th house sometime during the summer, said Jonathan Wilson, NAMB's strategy development coordinator for World Changers and PowerPlant.

Several new areas are scheduled, including Daytona Beach, Fla.; San Diego; Franklinton, La.; and Corpus Christi, Texas. "We're particularly excited about Daytona Beach," Wilson said, noting that First Church "which has a real heart for reaching their city for Christ, wanted to use World Changers as part of their overall strategy. Daytona is always a popular destination for students, and we'll have 300 students from across the United States working there July 25-Aug. 1."

Each student participating in World Changers or PowerPlant pays an average fee of \$260 for most U.S. projects. Fees cover the week's food, lodging, local transportation, and program materials. Transportation to the project city is additional.

"We've been holding our collective breaths to see what impact the economy would have on World Changers this summer," Wilson said, "but just a few weeks away from the start of this summer's projects, we've got 25,000 people committed to come to World Changers and PowerPlant."

"It just goes to show that churches and student ministries are still heeding the Acts 1:8 challenge to go and spread the word of Christ and are making missions a priority of their church and ministry," Wilson said. "Sure, we've had a few churches drop out, but we've also seen a lot of churches call and add to their initial registration numbers — maybe increase from 20 to 30. So, churches remain committed. We work 18 months leading up to these projects and it's neat to see how God is blessing our work."

For PowerPlant, another 2,000 students — middle school to college-aged — have signed up for 16 projects this summer. Wilson described PowerPlant as providing students with real-world experience in Southern Baptist church planting and evangelism. First-time PowerPlant cities include Minneapolis, St. Louis, Memphis and Indianapolis.

Minneapolis has one of the lowest number of evangelical

churches in the country, Wilson said. "but in Minneapolis on the University of Minnesota campus, we'll have a group of guys who worked in PowerPlant as former students and staff, who are now church planters on campus who'll serve as core leaders for this summer's PowerPlant project up there."

World Changer and PowerPlant students pay their way "to come sleep on the floor, work on someone else's house or work with a church they didn't know existed," Wilson said. "Yet they do it. They put their money where their faith is in order to make a difference... and be part of something big. Through their efforts in World Changers and PowerPlant, God's love is going to be communicated to more than 100 communities in North America this summer."

In another first in the history of World Changers and PowerPlant, Wilson noted that both groups will be working in St. Louis at the same time, the week of July 18-25. Some 400 World Changer students will work on renovating and repairing homes in the St. Louis area, while PowerPlant volunteers will be doing church planting. "This happened because of a great partnership we have with the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association, [which] has a strategy of involving students," he said.

The last of NAMB's trio of summer ministries is "Families on Mission" (FOM), now in its fourth year. FOM is a pre-packaged week-long mission opportunity for families — mom and dad, kids and even grandparents.

Some 650 people are registered as families to participate in one of six mission trips: Big Stone Gap, Va., June 6-11; Helen, Ga., June 13-18; Bryson City/Cherokee, N.C., June 20-25; Broken Arrow (Tulsa), Ok., July 4-9; Ruston/Farmerville,

La., July 11-16; and Columbiana (Birmingham), Al., July 18-23.

FOM provides children, their parents and grandparents with a hands-on experience of mission awareness, mission projects, worship, evangelism, family group discussions, and interaction with local missionaries and members of the community.

Susan Peugh, NAMB's coordinator for FOM, said spots are still available for the July mission trips, although the June projects have closed. The cost is \$250 per family member participating, which includes food, lodging and local transportation for the week. Transportation to and from the FOM site is the responsibility of the family.

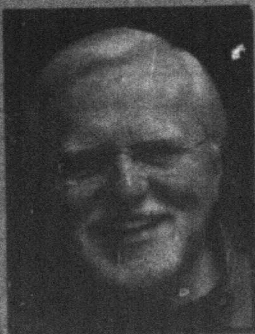
For more information on World Changers or PowerPlant, access www.world-changers.net or www.powerplant.net; for Families on Mission, e-mail fom@namb.net or call (800) 462-8657, ext. 6456.



READY TO SERVE — Student volunteers will spring into action this summer for 92 home rehabilitation projects in 85 cities across North America, as the North American Mission Board launches its 19th year of World Changers. Two other NAMB summer ministries, PowerPlant and Families on Mission, will draw another 2,600 participants. (BP photo)

McKeever retiring

NEW ORLEANS (BP and local reports) — Joe McKeever, director of missions for New Orleans Association and a former Mississippi pastor, has announced his retirement. Born the fourth of six children near Nauvoo, Al., in 1940, McKeever was called to the ministry at West End Church in Birmingham in 1961. He earned master of theology and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Margaret have three children and eight grandchildren. Before accepting the director of missions position in New Orleans five years ago, McKeever served 14 years as pastor of First Church in Kenner, La. He previously served 4 years as pastor of First Church in Charlotte, N.C., and 12 years at First Church, Columbus, Ms. He also served on the ministerial staff of First Church, Jackson, Ms. McKeever may be best known for his editorial cartoon sketches dealing with Southern Baptist issues, which have appeared in virtually every Southern Baptist newspaper. "When I was 5 years old, Mom gave me and my little sister Carolyn pencil and paper and put us at the kitchen table and told us to draw," McKeever said. "I discovered I loved to draw. The next year in the first grade, the rest of the class would gather around and watch me draw. To this day, I can outdraw any group of first-graders you've ever met." McKeever's cartoons can be accessed through Baptist Press at <http://bpnews.net/bpfun.asp?ID=JM>.



McKeever

Looking back

10 years ago

Robert Hamlin is named Southwestern Seminary distinguished alum for 1999. He pastored Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, was vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and is vice president for evangelism at the North American Mission Board.

20 years ago

Roy Clark, pastor of Lake Harbor Church, Brandon, is shot in the head at point-blank range by the husband of a woman Clark was counseling. Though doctors give his family no hope of survival, Clark is out of intensive care in three days and is recovering at Methodist Rehab Center in Jackson.

30 years ago

Lawrence Bracey Campbell of Clinton is presented a check from the Baptist Record for writing Sunday School lessons for 26 years, since 1933. Campbell states that he spends 12 hours each week in preparing his lessons.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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By Charles Marx, 1932-2004
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OAJ SBF DGXY OD
SCMB FYN DOSMOFU-
CA DON XCA-
FUAGOSSN, SBF WCJ TB
KOWAUZUBJ.

HDOSK DBMBAFN:
ZCGE

Clue: E = R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ecclesiastes Five: Seven

DEZISREVO DAOI

If by chance you think the title of this article does not look right, you are correct. Look at it again and what you will discover is that it is "Oversized Load" spelled backwards. Why did I put that for a title? Well, so that you would have to think about it as I did the other day as I was driving down the interstate and came up behind a house trailer being pulled. Somebody had put across the back of the trailer one of the banners that said, "Oversized Load," except it was put on backwards. At first when I saw it, I thought maybe it was a foreign company with some language with which I was not familiar at all, giving me some instructions. As I moved along I began to realize what had happened and then I understood what was being said.

I thought that maybe if a person with dyslexia saw it that everything looked okay. I could not get around the big, wide vehicle and so I just rode along thinking how odd that looked and how crazy things appear when they get turned around backwards. That is especially true when it comes to the people of God, the church, what we do, and the way that we go about it. If we get our priorities turned around backwards, what seems to be a great idea begins to look like a "dezisrevO daoL."

A *dezisrevO daoL* begins to happen in the church when we become inward focused rather than outward focused. When we come to know Jesus, we are the most blessed people on the earth. Our sins are forgiven, heavenly resources are available, and our eternity is secure. All of that being said, the work, the mission, and the ministry of the church are not about us. The

majority of the squabbles and emotional traumas that take place in congregations are because some of us become emotionally ripped apart because we are not getting our way.

The senior adults are not getting enough attention. The young people are getting too much attention. Some new program has been put in place or some new song was sung. Some old tree was cut. I have known of people who got upset and at least for a time dropped out of church because of the choir robes that the church purchased. I have also known of people who got upset and began to raise cane because the choir stopped wearing choir robes.

I am convinced there is no limit to the number of things about which people may get upset because it does not suit them personally. Just think about it! People get perturbed over the kind or the color of ties that the pastor wears. Their noses get out of joint because he does not wear a tie. They examine his shoes or boots and have deep concerns about the way he combs or does not comb his hair, or the way he spikes it or shaves it.

The schedule or time for services and activities always seems to put some saints in a tailspin. "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," is, of course, a command, but there are no service times listed in Exodus 20. It is a call for us

Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

to give our attention and our focus to the Lord. Sometimes we are so focused on the irritations in our lives and our anger toward others that we are hard pressed to say that we are keeping it holy. Well, you get the picture. This can turn things around from reaching a world that is lost without Jesus and living in darkness because of our own self-centeredness.

The church also begins to look like a *dezisrevO daoL* whenever we begin to look down instead of up. Sometimes it appears as though Christians get so discouraged, so despondent, so disillusioned with life, and so seemingly hopeless that you wonder if they really believe in God. I know they do believe in Him and they do trust Him. They do celebrate His glorious love and salvation. When things look bad, when the economy goes south, when troubles come and tragedy strikes, when the wrong folks get elected to positions, and wrong seems to prevail in so many areas, we tend to get so down that you would think that we never look up.

I can only say, dear friends, "Lift up your eyes for your redemption draweth nigh." Regardless of what is happening down around your feet, Jesus is still Lord and God is

still on His throne. In the revelation of His own death and departure Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1). Look up and not down!

Finally, the church can look like a *dezisrevO daoL* when it appears to be without rather than with. What am I referring to specifically, wonderfully, and powerfully? I am talking about the Holy Spirit. God Himself comes alongside of us to energize and even to inform us, to lift us, and to lighten our load. Sometimes we appear to be all alone and helpless in this world. This is not true by any stretch of the imagination.

A church that operates void of the infusion of the power of God through His spirit is indeed a strange and somewhat whopper-jawed site. We are not like Samson going out to take on the enemies without any power. We are the people of God. We are indwelt by the mighty power of God. In that power we live, move, and have our being. There may be some exceptions to this, but for the most part if a child of God leads a defeated, helpless, crippled, lackluster life and unvictorious existence, it is because a choice was made to be in that condition. God provides His spirit, His champion, and His wonderful power to be with us. With God on our side and our walking with Him rather than without Him, indeed we, the people of God, become an *Oversized Load*. For in Him, we can do all things through Christ, which strengthens us.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 4, 2009

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

2009 STATE SENIOR ADULT RALLY

Thursday, August 27, 8 - 11:45 a.m.
Morrison Heights BC

- 8:00 Registration (Cost: \$1 at the door)
9:00 Rally with Al Staggs, Santa Fe, NM
(Humorous impersonator of 30 characters)
Choir: Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus
10:00 Break
10:45 Break-outs:
- Fun Time with Al: Al Staggs
 - Leadership: Changing Faces of Senior Adult Ministry
Joe Sherrer, Professor, NOBTS
 - Equipping Seniors to be a Disciple
Ivan Parke, Professor at MC
 - Seventh-Inning Stretch
Daniel Hall, MS Baptist Foundation Executive Director
- 11:45 Adjourn

For more information contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 601-292-3373, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 373, or E-mail gshows@mbcb.org.

MUSIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FBC, JACKSON, JULY 9-11

Jesus is the Song
CONFERENCE BEGINS AT 12:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY
ENDS AT NOON ON SATURDAY

COST OF CONFERENCE \$30

Make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
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Church Music Department, Leadership Conference
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 by July 1, 2009.

For more information, registration forms and motel listings, visit our Web-site at www.mbcb.org and click on Departments/Church Growth/Church Music/Events/Music Leadership Conference. You may also call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 267, or in Jackson, 601-292-3267.

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STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE



Crossgates BC, Brandon, Miss.

**Thursday, July 16, 1:30 p.m. -
Saturday, July 18, 3 p.m.**

Basic Workshops Offered:

- English as a Second Language (with an EFL component)
- Adult Reading and Writing
- Tutoring Children and Youth
- Chronological Bible Storying

Seminars for those who have had the Basic Workshop

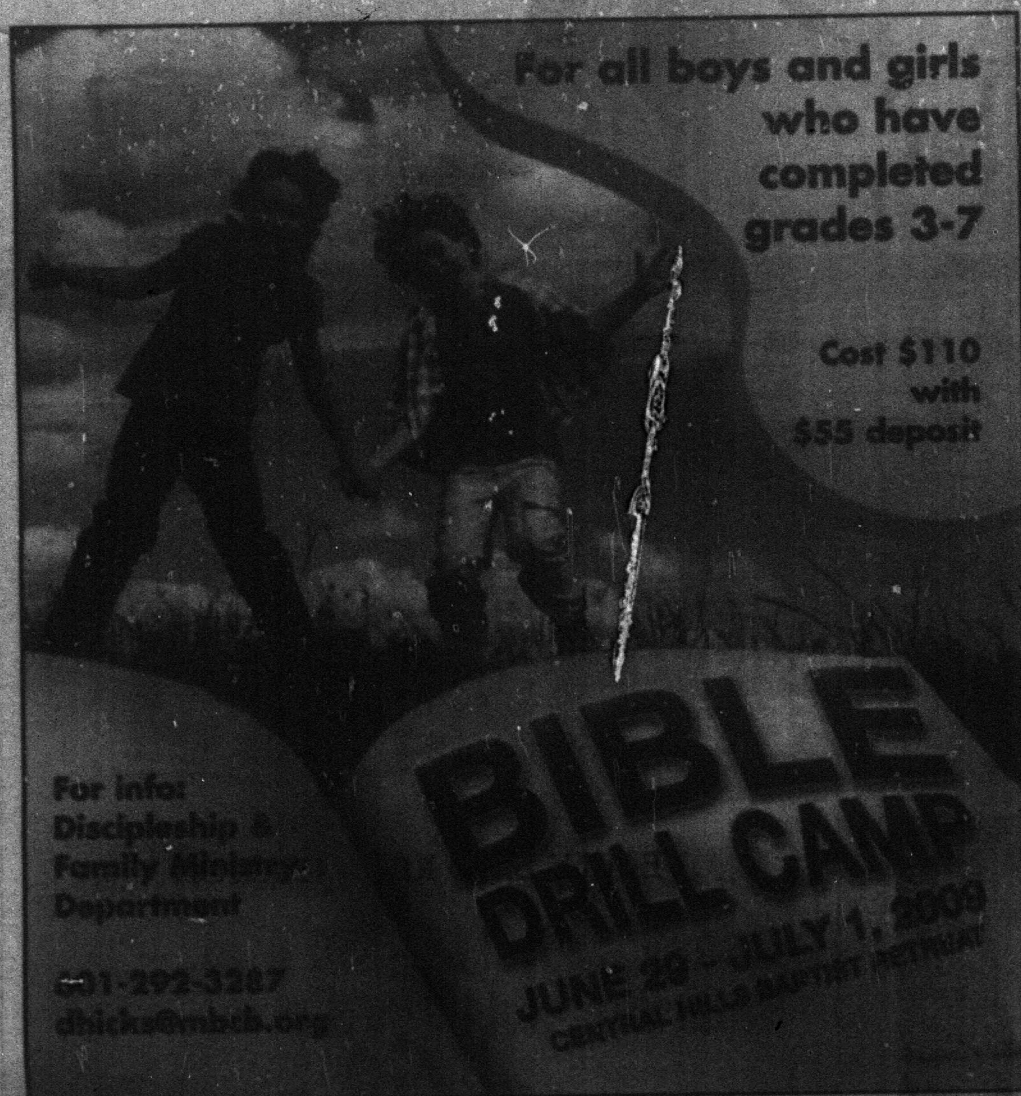
include topics such as: Web sites, citizenship, Biblical material, cultures and religions of internationals living in Mississippi, prison literacy ministry.

Highlight

Special 50th Anniversary Celebration
of Literacy Missions in North America

Cost: \$10 registration, \$19 cost of manual
(for Basic workshops only)
\$7 per meal (if applicable)

Registration: on Web site or contact Paula Smith or Karen Redditt (800-748-1651, ext. 316 / psmith@mbcb.org / kredditt@mbcb.org) in the State WMU Office.

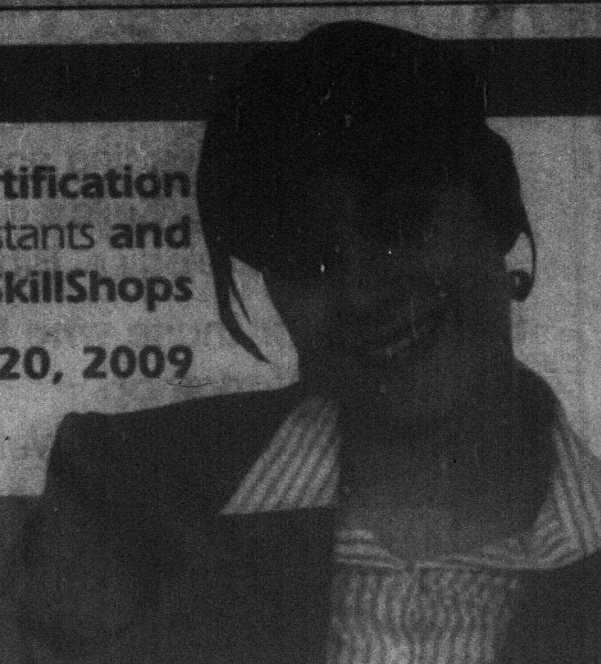


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Colossians 4:2-5


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Teacher Appreciation & Prayerwalk
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2009

ABC



- Conduct a commitment service during the morning worship for school teachers and administrators.
- Pray and commission teachers and administrators as they begin the new school year.
- Request specific prayer needs from school administrators and teachers.
- Meet at the church on Sunday afternoon to prayerwalk and/or prayer drive around the area schools.
- Share the prayerwalk experiences during the evening worship.

THE WAY

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUTH NIGHT



Stuart Hall
Guest Speaker



Jake Gullledge
Worship Leader

July 17, 2009

Mississippi Coliseum, 6:30 p.m.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

No cost • No registration • Love offering taken

Pastor & Wife RETREAT

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July 16-18, 2009
Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville

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\$234 PER COUPLE • MUST REGISTER BY 7/1/09

PROVIDING A REVIEW OF YEAR ONE (2008
CONTENT) AND A PRESENTATION OF YEAR
TWO (NEW, ADDITIONAL CONTENT)



Dr. Edwin Jenkins is the pastor of
First Baptist Church in Athens, Ala.
He and his wife, Joan, have three
children. Edwin earned a D.Min. at
Southwestern Baptist Theological
Seminary.

During the time that Dr. Jenkins
served as the director of Leadership
and Church Growth for the Alabama
Baptist Convention State Board of
Missions, he and his wife became aware of the significant need for
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"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways. King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."
Revelation 15:3-5

A team from Morrison Heights BC, Clinton, is traveling to Israel, June 7-12. Please pray for this team as they minister primarily in the area of English as a second language.

Pray for four Miss. Baptist student summer missionaries who are spending their summer working with Association Missionary David Williams in the Finger Lakes Association in Rochester, NY.

Pray for: (1) Children's Mission Camp for Boys & Girls, Central Hills, 8th-10th (MM); (2) GA Camp, Garaywa-Clinton, 8th-12th (WMU); (3) All State Youth Choir & Orchestra Camp & Choir tour. Performances will be held at various Mississippi churches, 8th-16th (CM).

Pray for: (1) GA Camp, Garaywa, 15th-19th (WMU); (2) a team from Calvary BC, Hattiesburg, as they travel to Peru, June 15-24, to work in the area of evangelism and discipleship.

Pray for a group of Mississippi young professionals who are seeking ways to use their business skills in international missions opportunities. Pray for God's direction as many opportunities have come about in recent days.

Pray for Co-ed Youth Week (Grades 6-12), Central Hills, 16th-20th (MM).

Pray for 13 teams traveling throughout the summer to Midwestern Theological Seminary. These teams are working to renovate and landscape parts of the campus.

Pray for a large team led by FBC, Columbus, as they travel to Brazil, June 17-28, to work in the ministries of medicine, VBS, construction and evangelism.

Pray for: (1) III Student Week, Central Hills, 11th-15th (SS); (2) a team from Mantee BC traveling to Ukraine, June 11-25, to do prayer walking, women's ministry and Bible school; (3) a team from Morrison Heights BC, Clinton, traveling to Ukraine, June 11-18, to lead Bible studies, English as a second language and VBS.

Pray for: (1) IV Student Week, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, 18th-22nd (SS); (2) a team from FBC, Madison, traveling to Greece, June 18-27, to volunteer at an annual meeting of mission workers.

Pray for: (1) Lad/Dad Weekend, Central Hills, 5th-6th (MM); (2) Breadwood BC, Madison, mission team going to Ukraine, June 5-13, to lead sports camps and Bible clubs; (3) Lumbard BC, Lamar Association, mission team going to Honduras, June 5-12, ministering through Bible school and a feeding program.

Pray for (1) a team from Lauderdale Baptist Association traveling to Dominican Republic, June 11-18, to continue an ongoing relationship of evangelism and discipleship; (2) a team of 11 traveling to Romania, June 12-21, led by the Gary Bowlin Evangelistic Association ministering through medical clinics, VBS and evangelism.

Pray for a team from Petal-Hursey Baptist Church, Petal, as they travel to Costa Rica, June 6-13, to minister and serve the people there.

Praise God for the approval of acquisition and renovation of a property for Cicero BC, Cicero, NY. Clarke Venable BC, DeSoto Hills BC, Tate BC and FBC, Columbus, will send construction teams and finance building materials this summer. Pray that other churches would want to be a part of this project.



Concert TOUR

June 10 6:30 P.M.	Laurel, Miss. (601) 763-7571 Salem Heights BC • 5850 Hwy 84 West
June 11 6:30 P.M.	Long Beach, Miss. (288) 864-2584 FBC • 300 North Cleveland Avenue
June 12 6:30 P.M.	Southaven, Miss. (662) 890-2452 DeSoto Hills BC • 4680 Getwell Road
June 14 11:00 A.M.	Clarksdale, Miss. (662) 624-2538 Clarksdale BC • 401 First Street
June 14 6:30 P.M.	Houston, Miss. (662) 456-5311 FBC • 201 West Madison Street
June 15 6:30 P.M.	West Point, Miss. (662) 494-4213 FBC • 134 East Broad Street
June 16 6:30 P.M.	Jackson, Miss. (601) 949-1900 FBC • 431 North State Street



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HOUSE TOPS

Marriage fight heats up in N.H.

CONCORD, N.H. (BP)—An attempt to make New Hampshire the sixth state to legalize same sex marriage may have hit a snag last week, but supporters aren't giving up and a legislative committee agreed Friday in a controversial meeting to send a compromise bill back to the House and Senate.

At issue was language in a bill, H.B. 73, that Democratic Gov. John Lynch said must pass if he is to sign a separate bill, H.B. 436, that would legalize same sex marriage. Although H.B. 436 already passed both chambers, legislative leaders have yet to send it to Lynch's desk.

Lynch says H.B. 73 — which passed the Senate but surprisingly failed in the House 188-186 on May 20 — would provide protections to religious organizations and prevent them from being forced to participate in same-sex ceremonies. Social conservatives say the bill doesn't go far enough in protecting those with religious objections, while some representatives who opposed the bill say it goes too far.

Conservatives are trying to defeat H.B. 73 so as to force Lynch to veto the same sex marriage bill.

A conference committee of members from both chambers agreed to minor changes in H.B. 73 that the committee hopes will pass both chambers and appease Lynch, but the bill passed the committee only after a Republican (Sen. Sheila Roberge) who opposes same sex marriage was pulled from the committee and replaced by a Democrat (Sen. Matthew Houde) who supports it.

Roberge was pulled from the committee by Democratic lead-

ers after she voted against the compromise. A unanimous vote is necessary to send the bill back to the full House and Senate. With Houde on the committee, the vote went from 6-1 to 7-0.

Democrats control both chambers. Roberge had offered three amendments to the bill that failed to get seconded, including an amendment to protect private businesses who oppose same sex marriage, and an amendment that would have placed a non-binding referendum about same sex marriage on the ballot.

Conservatives now will pressure House members to defeat the bill when it comes up again for a vote.

Kevin Smith, executive director of the conservative New Hampshire-based Cornerstone Policy Research, told Baptist Press the committee changes simply were "fluff" in order to give Democratic House leaders another chance to pass it. He believes House leaders will find the votes to pass it in the full chamber, much like they did in March when the same sex marriage bill actually failed by one vote when it was first considered, only to pass by seven votes minutes later when Democratic leaders brought it back up.

"They did nothing to change the governor's amendment. I think it will pass the House, but I thought it would pass the last time. You never know what's going to happen in there. It's all about turnout," he said of the 400-member chamber. "They only need one to switch."

If one vote switches and the vote is tied, then House Speaker Terie Norelli — who supports same sex marriage — would break the tie and presumably vote for it.

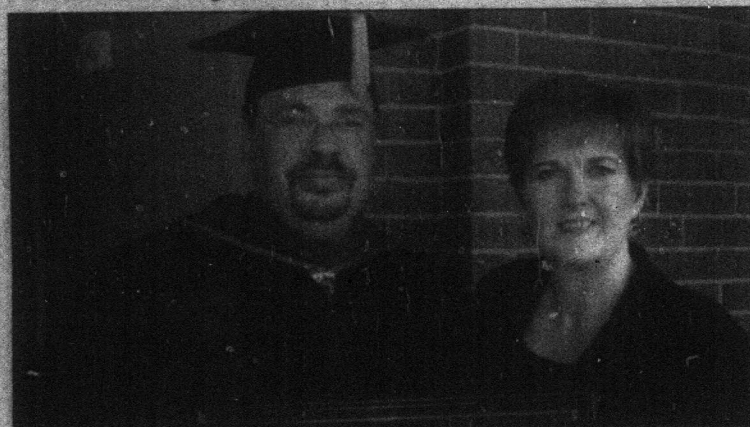
Cornerstone and the National Organization for Marriage have been running a television ad reminding citizens that Lynch said he would veto the same sex marriage bill if the religious exemptions bill as he outlined isn't passed. It also reminds citizens that Lynch, up until just two weeks ago, said he didn't support same sex marriage. It asks viewers to call Lynch and ask him to veto the bill.

"The legislature did not pass these provisions," the ad says. "Now the only question is whether Gov. Lynch will finally keep his word."

Smith and other conservatives say Lynch's proposal falls far short of truly protecting religious freedoms.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. The School of Education at William Carey University will host two summer science workshops for elementary science teachers and homeschool instructors entitled Science as Adventure July 6 through 9 and The Next Step July 13 through 17 on the Hattiesburg campus. The cost of each workshop is \$200. Space is limited. To register for either class, contact Lee Walker and David Walker at Partnership for Learning.com, LLC, 611 South 19th Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39401. You may also call (601) 544-3549 or 520-1589, or email lee@partnershipforlearning.com.
2. Mississippians receiving degrees from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., on May 14 included Paul Wilson Young, pastor of Cato Church, Mendenhall, Th.D.; Kelley M. Creecy, Senatobia, M.A. in biblical counseling; Allen R. Spangler III, Pinola, M.Div. Pictured is Young with wife Angela.



2. The Youngs

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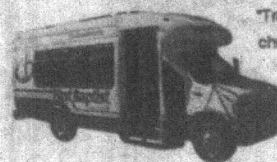
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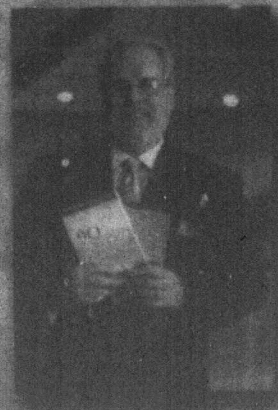
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. Elmo Church, Roxie: June 22-26, 6-8 p.m.
2. New Hope Church, Foxworth: SonRock Kids Camp, June 15-19, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; kick-off and registration, June 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Family night, June 21, 6:30 p.m.; 3 years old - 6th grade.
3. Liberty Church, Liberty: June 8-12; 8:30 a.m. - noon; parent time, June 12, 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch.
4. Bellevue Church, Pontotoc County: June 8-12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; kindergarten - 6th grade.
5. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia: June 8-12; Mon. - Thurs., 8:30 a.m. - noon; Fri., 3 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. with family night.
6. Gumpond Church, Lumberton: Boomerang Express, June 8-12, 6-8:30 p.m.; parents night, Fri., 6 p.m.; 4 years - 12th grade.

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Presents

Don Piper

Author of 90 Minutes in Heaven



Don died and went to heaven and is back to tell his story.

June 14 & 15
Leflore County Civic Center
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Free Admission
Book signing will follow.
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STAFF CHANGES

1. First Church, Bellevue, Hattiesburg, has called James A. Roberson, Jr., as pastor. He comes from First Church, Interlachen, Fla., and has served churches in Mississippi and Alabama. He is shown with his wife, Sonja.



1. The Robersons

BIBLE DRILLS



1a. Stillions

1. Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, recognizes its Bible drillers: Molly Stillions, 1st place winner, 9 year drills; and the youth and children's drillers.
2. Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are the children and youth drillers and their leaders.
3. Salem Church, Leake Association, recognizes children's drillers Jasmine McCaughn, Monica Johnson, and Candice Barrett.



1b. Oakhurst Church youth and children



2. Tuckers Crossing Church



3. Salem Church

4. High Hill Church, Neshoba County, recognizes its youth drillers Haliegh Graham, left, and Travis Loper, right. Interim pastor, Howell Thrash, center.
5. Lena Church, Lena, recognizes its youth Bible driller, Ryan Sessums; Bible Buddies Layton Clark, Will Burns, Colton Alexander, and Lauren Parker; and children's drillers Will Langford, Dylan Sessums, Hayley Slay, and Robin Sessums.



4. High Hill Church



5a. Lena Church youth



5b. Lena Church Bible Buddies



5c. Lena Church children

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Salem Church, Collins: 135th anniversary, June 14, 10 a.m.
2. Hurricane Creek, Sandy Hook: Revival, June 7-10; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Carroll Roberson, speaker; Curtis Roland, pastor.
3. Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg: Revival, June 7-12; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Chester Estes, speaker; Eddy Pilgram, music; Keith Fulton, pastor.
4. Elmo Church, Fayette: Homecoming, June 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Calvin Wactor, speaker; James Earl Hunsucker, pastor.
5. Fairfield Church, Moselle: Homecoming, June 14; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; services, 10 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Kenny Goff, speaker.
6. Oakvale Church, Oak Vale: Revival, June 7-10; Sun., 5 p.m., followed by cookout and ice cream; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Daniel Caldwell, speaker; Lena Davis, music; Bobby McKay, pastor.
7. Coldwater Church, Philadelphia: Homecoming, June 14, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck dinner; Barron Pilgrim, speaker; Buck Stovall, music.
8. Shiloh, Carroll County: Revival, June 12-14; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.; Lannie Wilbourn, speaker; Doug Warren, music.
9. Union Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming, June 14; worship, 9:45 a.m.; singing, 11:15 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Greg Johnston, speaker; Southern Praise, music.
10. Rock Bluff Church, Puckett: Revival, June 7-10; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by diner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m., followed by fellowship; Don Lum, Tal Vardaman, Paul Young, and Jim Futral, speakers.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Purposefully Connected

1 John 1:1-2:2

By Lori Clendinning

Google the question "Who is Jesus Christ?" and over 16 million websites pop up, offering a myriad of explanations and definitions. Yet, despite its speed and availability to the 21st century seeker, the Internet remains a murky, unreliable source of accurate information.

Dare you trust Wikipedia, touted as the free encyclopedia, yet as to accuracy, it allows users to update information at their whim? Or perhaps you would select as your source of choice .com, .net, or .org -based websites whose creators' beliefs may or may not be based on truth?

When in doubt, go to the most direct source possible: an eyewitness from the days when Jesus walked on this earth as a flesh and bone human being. Seek out John, the most

beloved disciple. From him you will get an accurate viewpoint of Jesus and His mission.

Certainly, after Paul, John the Apostle is the most prolific New Testament writer, with testimony as to the reality of Jesus and His purpose borne out in John's Gospel, his three Letters, and his book of Revelation.

As a close companion of Jesus, John had become a spiritual mentor to early church members. More than a pastor, his was the apostolic voice of the early Christian community. By 90 A.D., when 1 John is believed to have been penned, John the Elder encouraged followers to remain faithful to the truth: Jesus Christ was God incarnate, not merely spirit, but of human flesh. And as such, He alone allows believers to have fellowship with God and



Clendinning

one another. During the fervent days of the early church and amid the alacrity of false teaching, John boldly proclaimed Jesus' preexistence and incarnation. John's task was to arm followers with factual information about

Jesus, in order to prevent them from falling prey to counterfeit doctrine. Some were being led astray by teachers who taught that body and spirit were separate. They mistakenly lectured that the body could do whatever it wanted as flesh did not corrupt the spirit. Indeed, this Gnostic teaching declared that Jesus remained a phantom on this earth, fully God, but not being of flesh and bone.

Even without a seminary degree or theological training of modern days, John grasped that the church had to have a solid foundation: Jesus' incarnation makes possible our fellowship with God and one another. Without Christ as our connection, we have no association with God or with

other believers. Jesus links us to our Heavenly Father and to each other.

This fellowship with God requires that we surrender sinful lives. He does not waver or yield to sin's presence in His children. We are His workmanship, His temple, His vessel, and in His presence there is no evil.

Just as we are to seek Him daily, we should not neglect walking in fellowship with other believers. For some outgoing personalities, this is not a problem. Like Winnie-the-Pooh's friend Tigger in the A.A. Milne children's books, these people bounce up to others joyfully. However, others are more like the shy, retiring Piglet or the melancholy Eeyore, both reluctant to draw out others.

Yet, God, our Father, wants us to mingle with His whole family. We have to make fellowship with other believers a matter of high priority. By doing what God requires of us, we also receive the benefit of having others to whom we are accountable. Other believers can help us to stay away from

the sin that would cause our Christian witness to suffer.

Through Christ, we can overcome our sinful ways. First, recognize the seriousness of our wrongdoing. Secondly, we must confess to God that which He already knows. If we hold onto our sins and not confess, it is as if we are dirty-diapered toddlers before our all-wise, all-smelling parent. Why not be changed? Why not be cleaned?

Sin is serious business. In fact, sin is a multi-trillion dollar business in our fallen world. By human nature, we are defaulted to sin and this is not a secret to God. He knows our weaknesses and where we are most likely to fall into temptation.

Our loving, gracious God has made provision for restoring His children to a right fellowship with Him. Jesus paid the price and He alone pleads our case. As our propitiation, Jesus not only turns away God's wrath, He also cleanses us from sin.

Lori Clendinning is a member of First Baptist Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Talking About the Gospel

Galatians 1:6-9, 11-12, 15-16; 2:1-6

By Jim Burnett

Have you ever wondered if you had done something that would cause God to stop loving you and prohibit your entrance into heaven? The good news for believers is that once you have been spiritually born again, you can not be spiritually unborn. In other words, it is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the grave that saves us, not our performance, good or bad. Absolutely nothing can disconnect us from God once we are connected.

The next three weeks of lessons come from the book of Galatians, focusing our attention on the fact that salvation comes through faith and not by works. Living today in a pluralistic society that espouses that all roads lead to heaven, and that God awards salvation based on

human performance, Paul's words need to be heard and heeded.

Recognize the True Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9)

Today in our edit, cut, and paste world the pure tenets of Christianity are being contaminated. Consequently, people are creating their own Jesus and making up their own code of conduct.

The cross of Christ in America today seems to be so encumbered with agendas (political, religious, etc.) that salvation has become a confusing topic, leaving people wondering how to become right with God.

I wonder how Paul, if alive today, would respond to the many messages echoing across the American religious airwaves promising God's favor on those who would donate their money, God's healing on those who



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would make a financial pledge, God's mercy and forgiveness to those who perform well. Would he call these messages a different gospel, a foreign truth, heresy as he did with the Galatians? Would he conclude that the true gospel had been distorted?

The whole truth and nothing but the truth is this: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV). Any addition or subtraction to this fact is nothing less than a lie. Salvation comes to those who put their faith and trust in Christ, period. We do not work our way into the family of God; we are born into it by faith. We will not be given access to heaven by merely identifying with a religion or denomination. One can be in church and not be in Christ. But once one is in Christ, he or she will want to be in church.

Christians must recognize the true gospel: simply put it

believing in the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to bring salvation to every person who would accept Him. Anything more or less equals a different and distorted gospel.

Realize the Gospel Is Divine (Galatians 1:11-12, 15-16)

The gospel that Paul preached and printed was of divine origin. It was not a human philosophy, creed, or set of rules conjured up by him or anyone else. In fact, the Gospel Paul lived and breathed was revealed to Him by Jesus Himself, the author and perfecter of the Christian faith. Paul's first revelation of Christ was on the road to Damascus. But by no means was this his last. Paul's inspiration for his preaching and his extensive writing in the New Testament came directly from his personal connection to Jesus.

Today it is imperative that people believe and understand that the gospel is a heavenly message brought down to earth in human form: Jesus. It is the only means by which man can be saved. It is not a way to heav-

en, but the way. It not a truth among many truths, but the truth. It is not another way of life, but the life.

Refuse to Accept A Compromise (Galatians 2:1-6)

Paul was not afraid to have deep and direct discussions about the gospel with anybody, including the religious elite of his day. In fact, he encouraged this kind of dialogue, believing it could be the catalyst for better understanding of Christ and His call on the life of believers. Compromise was not in Paul's vocabulary. While it was true that there were some gray areas between Christianity and Judaism as far as laws and customs, in Paul's mind there was one thing that was indisputable: Jesus died on the cross to offer forgiveness for man's sin and rose from the dead to give believers eternal life. That in a nutshell was and is the gospel to which we must hold to firmly.

Burnett is pastor of Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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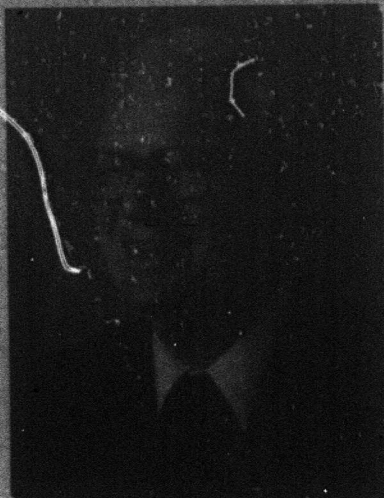
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MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



3. Liberty Church baby dedication



6. Hogan



8. Robinwood Church baby dedication



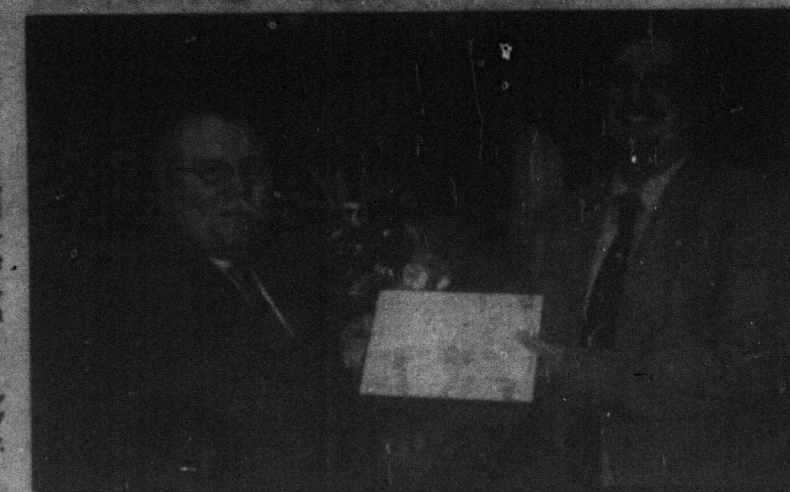
5. Grayson ordination



9. CWJC graduates



6. Standing Pine Church deacons



10. Yarber licensing



7. The Honeycutts



11. West End Church GAs

1. Union Seminary Church, Laurel, will have a singing June 6, 7 p.m., featuring The Houston Road Boys, Kathy Lee, Richard Gavin, and others.
2. Leflore Church, Holcomb, will host several events June 6, including a yard sale at 7 a.m., gospel singing at 4 p.m., and will serve fish plates (\$8/adults, \$5/child) from 5-6:30 p.m.
3. Liberty Church, Kemper County, held a baby dedication Apr. 26. Shown are Cooper Heath Clay and his parents, Ryan and Emily.
4. Cartersville Church, Petal, will recognize Leland Hogan, senior pastor, for 40 years of service on June 7. Hogan has been in ministry for nearly 60 years.
5. James Vince Grayson, East Pleasant Grove Church, Clarke Association, was ordained to the gospel ministry May 9. Grayson's home church is Coat Church, Magee. Shown, left is deacon J.C. Mathis and Grayson.
6. Standing Pine Church, Leake County, elected Mike Donovan as deacon and ordained McQua Jones as deacon May 3. Shown are Donovan, Allen Peoples, Jones, and Joe Abel.
7. Pleasant Hill Church, Columbus, ordained David Honeycutt to the gospel ministry Feb. 22. Shown are Christie Honeycutt, Honeycutt, and Noah Honeycutt.
8. Robinwood Church, Saucier, celebrated baby dedication on Mother's Day. Shown are the participants.
9. The Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) of Rankin Association had 10 ladies graduate on May 19 at First Church, Richland. The CWJC Flowood Detection Center class had 25 ladies graduate Apr. 27. Shown are some of the graduates.
10. Crestwood Church, Booneville, licensed Richard Yarber to the ministry May 17. Shown are Jackie Spencer and Yarber.
11. The Girls in Action of West End Church, West Point, held their annual recognition service recently. Shown are the GAs and their leaders.